



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 14, 2015

DATE: June 9, 2015
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Renee Ismari, Director Forensic Science Division
email: rismari@washoecounty.us (775) 328-2800

THROUGH: Sheriff Chuck Allen *397*
JOHN SPENCER
UNDERSHERIFF

SUBJECT: Authorize Non-County Employee Travel Expenses [approximately \$2,000.00] for the performance of two external audits of the DNA Casework Laboratory and the DNA Databasing Laboratory at the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division on October 19th and 20th 2015. Travel expenses are being requested for three employees from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD). If approved, direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office's Forensic Science Division DNA Section is required by Federal Standards and Accreditation guidelines to have an external audit every two years. Arrangements have been made with the LVMPD that would allow three qualified DNA analysts to travel to Reno to perform these required audits. These audits are scheduled to be performed October 19th and 20th 2015. Successful audits are a requirement for continued participation in the Federal DNA database (CODIS) and to apply for any grant money for either DNA casework or the Offender DNA Program.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

An external DNA audit has been performed at the Washoe County Crime Laboratory DNA Section every two years since 1994.

BACKGROUND

A DNA external audit of the casework and databasing portions of the DNA laboratory is required to maintain the Forensic Science Division's accreditation status with the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Accreditation Board and allows the State of Nevada's participation in the FBI's National DNA Database Program. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division is the State Site for the DNA Database System. The need for outside quality audits insures that the procedures, instrumentation, chemical supplies, analysts'

AGENDA ITEM # 511

qualifications and interpretations meet the National DNA Standards as mandated by the FBI and American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors' Laboratory Accreditation Board accreditation criteria and insures reliable identification of offenders in violent crimes.

FISCAL IMPACT

Internal Order #20391 (DNA Offender Mandates) will cover the \$2,000.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners authorize Non-County Employee Travel Expenses [approximately \$2,000.00] for the performance of two external audits of the DNA Casework Laboratory and the DNA Databasing Laboratory at the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division on October 19th and 20th 2015. Travel expenses are being requested for three employees from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD). If approved, direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: move to authorize Non-County Employee Travel Expenses [approximately \$2,000.00] for the performance of two external audits of the DNA Casework Laboratory and the DNA Databasing Laboratory at the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division on October 19th and 20th 2015. Travel expenses are being requested for three employees from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD). If approved, direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments.